

# Edison A 21st Century Neighborhood School



October 2017

Sally Whitelock Principal

Joan Wieser Principal Resident

## **A message from the Principal...**

At Edison, our school vision is "Edison Elementary is committed to being a collaborative learning community where rigorous academics and character education ensure the development of the whole child. We design learning experiences to meet the unique learning needs of each student so that all of our children develop 21st Century skills: critical thinking and reasoning, information literacy, self-direction, collaboration and invention/innovation. We celebrate curiosity and creativity in the development of life-long learners." Therefore, in addition to a strong emphasis on rigorous instruction at Edison, we also intentionally teach our students character education, a growth mindset and bully proofing.

At Edison, during the first two weeks of school, all teachers facilitated lessons on friendship skills, problem solving skills and bully proofing lessons. Please ask your young children what they learned about making friends? Or, ask your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders, what is the difference between a conflict and a bully situation?

Additionally, at our monthly First Friday assemblies we have been teaching our students about Growth Mindset. In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities. We encourage you to google "Growth Mindset" and consider how you can encourage this type of thinking at home with homework or sports or even friendships.

In October, Ms. Tomcho will begin teaching students problem solving, conflict resolution and bully proofing lessons using the *Second Step* program. Monthly, for all students in grades 1-5, Ms. Tomcho will be teaching lessons in the following areas:

1. **Skills for Learning:** Scholars gain skills to help themselves learn, including how to focus their attention, listen carefully, and be assertive when asking for help with schoolwork.
2. **Empathy:** Scholars learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings. Scholars also learn how to take another's perspective and how to show compassion.
3. **Emotion Management:** Scholars learn specific skills for calming down when experiencing strong feelings, such as anxiety or anger.
4. **Problem Solving:** Scholars learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way.

Please join us in this journey as we teach to the 'whole child,' not only strong thinking skills and academic skills, but also strong problem solving skills and character education.

Sally Whitelock, Principal

### Mark Your Calendars:

September 29	Picture day
October 4	Walk to School Day
October 5	CSC meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room
October 5	PTA meeting at 6:00-7:00 PM in the auditorium
October 6	School Tour at 9:30-10:30 AM
October 13	Coffee Talk with the Principal and AP in the library at 8-8:30 AM
October 13	School Tour at 9:30-10:30 AM
October 16	Family Nature Night 5:00-7:00 PM for families of 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> graders
October 20	Fall Festival and Dia de Los Muertos Celebration at 3:45 PM on the blacktop
October 20	Farm Stand at 3:30
October 20	Box Tops collection
October 25	State of the School Address/SPF parent meeting 5:00-6:00 in auditorium
October 26 & 27	No school for students
November 1 & 2	Parent Teacher conferences from 3:45-7:45 PM
November 3	No School
November 9	CSC meeting at 4:30-5:30 PM in the conference room downstairs
November 9	PTA meeting at 6:00-7:00 PM in the auditorium
November 9	Picture make-up day
November 10	English Language Acquisition Parent Advisory Committee - Ms. Polenz's room at 8:00AM
November 10	School Tour at 9:30-10:30 AM
November 16	Build-it Night at 5:30 PM in the auditorium
November 16	Thanksgiving Lunch in the cafeteria
November 17	School Tour at 9:30-10:30 AM
November 17	Science Fair during the school day
November 20-24	No school – Thanksgiving Break

## Walk to School Day

Please join us on Wednesday, October 4 for Walk to School Day. Join children and parents from over 4,131 schools around the nation to celebrate the benefits of walking. Students who participate by walking to school will get prizes and high fives! It is good for your health, better for the environment and quality time for kids and parents.

## Coffee Talk with the Principal and AP

Edison's Principal and Assistant Principal hold monthly coffee talks in the library. Please join us for informal conversations about anything on your mind. Our first coffee talk is scheduled for **October 13 at 8:00 AM** in the school library.

## Family Nature Night (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Families)

We would like to invite our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families to our **Family Nature Night on Monday, October 16th from 5:00-7:00pm**, hosted by Schools and Outdoor Learning Environments (SOLE) and Edison's teachers. The event will be a festival style format with fun and hands on outdoor and science/social studies related activities. We offer **free pizza** and beverages. In the middle of the event, we hold a raffle for **prizes** like outdoor gear and a free annual state park pass.

## Fall Festival

Please join us for our annual Fall Festival and Dia de Los Muertos celebration on **Friday, October 20 at 3:45 PM**. Food, games, a haunted house, a dunk booth and LOTS of fun will take place on Edison's blacktop. Please keep in mind that this is a community event, so please dress appropriately – **costumes are welcome but masks, blood and weapons (even fake, even foam) are not allowed**. All money raised at booths through games, activities and food will go directly to classrooms to support learning and classroom communities. The PTA will sell tickets for games, booths and food at the event. Spread the word of a spooky (and silly) time happening at Edison.

## Farm Stand

Edison is excited to collaborate with Denver Urban Gardens to provide two Farm Stands this school year. Edison's Parent and Student Green Team will pick food from our community garden and sell it at Edison on **October 20 at 3:30 PM**. Please come buy some fresh vegetables from Edison's Green Team!

## Eagle Run

**Thanks to everyone for our second successful Eagle Run...in the books!** Thank you to all who participated in our second annual Eagle Run—the event was so much fun and we couldn't have done it without all the support from parents, teachers, administration, volunteers and especially our students! They did awesome—and have the lap bracelets to prove it!

**Keep filling-out those pledge sheets – Due October 6<sup>th</sup>!** Now is the time to take our energy from the event and work together to meet our \$20,000 goal! Your child should have come home with their award certificate

indicating how many laps they completed. Please indicate the lap number on their pledge sheet and start collecting those pledges! ECE and Kinder do not need to indicate number of laps. Your child's sponsors can pay with cash, check or online at <https://edisonpt.ejoinme.org/EagleRun>. Help Edison reach our goal to raise money to benefit classroom needs, Enrichment Day, Edison Earnings and more! Encourage your student to collect pledges and make sure to turn-in the pledge sheet along with the money to their teacher **NO LATER than October 6<sup>th</sup>** in order to receive an Eagle Run water bottle! Don't forget: **Apple iPods** for the top 3 pledge earners!

## **State of the School Address/SPF Meeting**

We would like to invite all parents to join us on **October 25 at 5:00-6:00 PM** in Edison's auditorium for our State of the School Address parent meeting. Sally Whitelock and Joan Wieser will present all current achievement and perception data about Edison, as well as share the School Performance Framework and Unified Improvement Plan goals for Edison. We will ask parents to share feedback for continual improvement.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Please sign up for a parent-teacher conference on either **November 1 or 2 between 3:45 and 7:45 PM**. This is a great time to find out how your child(ren) is doing in school, celebrate success and set academic and/or work habit goals for your children. We strongly believe that teachers and parents must work together, as a team, to ensure the educational success of children. We value these opportunities to collaborate with you and are looking forward to our one-on-one conferences.

## **Science Fair – coming soon!**

Our annual science fair is scheduled for Friday, November 17. Information will be coming home soon. If you child is interested in participating, please begin planning a science experiment with them. Watch Thursday folders for more information...

## **Healthy Living at Edison**

We know, and research shows, the food and beverages students eat and drink affect the way they feel, their behavior and their overall health and wellness. We also know that physical activity helps the brain learn, remember and grow. Therefore, teachers at Edison are examining ways to support our children in eating and living in healthy ways. Teachers are working to provide healthy snacks for celebrations, daily 'brain breaks' and encouraging participation in games at recess. Please help us through providing healthy lunches for your children, sending healthy snacks, considering healthy options for birthday celebrations and encouraging your children to get physical activity each day after school.

## **Recess 2.0**

Cindie Tomcho would like to invite parents to support our safe, healthy recess by volunteering as Parent Recess Coaches. Parent recess coaches play games with children at recess. Recess coaches have fun with kids, explain rules of the game they are playing, encourage students and support students with solving low level problems through 'Ro-sham-bo' (Rock-Paper-Scissors). Parent recess coaches do not supervise students, discipline students or 'hang out' with their child, though it is even more fun when your children and their peers play with

you! We have four basic and simple rules for recess – Be safe, Be kind, Be respectful, Have fun. Recess coaches will sign in at the office, get a volunteer sticker and then report to Cindie Tomcho on the playground for instructions. Please sign up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b4eaaac23a1fa7-playground>

## **Volunteering at Edison**

The goal of the Edison Elementary volunteer program is to assist the school in providing the best possible education for each student within a positive and caring community. If you were unable to attend one of our Parent Volunteer Trainings, please go to the website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/volunteering/> to read our Volunteer handbook, find information on the volunteer application, and get information on signing up to volunteer. Each year, we have many volunteers who give their time, energy and experience to help enrich the educational programs for our students. Volunteers make a difference and are an important part of our school team. Please volunteer at Edison when you can!

\*\* WANTED: Volunteers to help copy, laminate and cut out Eagle Eyes. Please contact Mrs. Wieser at [joan\\_wieser@dpsk12.org](mailto:joan_wieser@dpsk12.org) if you are interested in helping out.

## **Opportunities to GIVE to Edison**

There are a variety of VERY easy ways that you can donate to the Edison PTA and school, without spending a penny! Please support us any way you can!

- **Box Tops:** Please check your pantries and cut off all “Box Tops” that you find. Send them to school with your children before **October 20**. Box Tops are sent in to “Box Tops for Education” two times per year. All the money donated from participating companies goes directly to teachers for use in classrooms.
- **King Soopers or Safeway cards:** Please purchase a King Soopers or Safeway card from Edison’s PTA. Cards can be purchased at PTA meetings or from the secretaries in Edison’s office. Each card is \$10 and comes with \$10 on it. Then, each time you shop, load additional money on to the card prior to the clerk ringing up your groceries. Then, pay with the King Soopers/Safeway card. Edison PTA will receive \$5 from King Soopers/Safeway for each \$100 you spend.
- **Amazon Smile:** Sign up for “Amazon Smile” on Amazon (there is a link from Edison’s home page) and choose Edison Elementary PTA as your choice for donations. Each time you purchase from Amazon, make sure you sign in with Amazon Smile. Amazon will then donate a percentage of your purchase to Edison.

If you would like to donate directly to Edison’s PTA or the school, some other ways include:

- **Make a direct donation:** Go to Edison’s website at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/> and click on the “Donate” button. You can donate any amount you choose directly to our PTA.
- **Donors Choose:** Check out the many Donors Choose projects that teachers have posted on [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) and donate to any cause that you think will benefit your child and our community. You can find all current projects through the link on Edison’s home page at <http://edison.dpsk12.org/>.

We appreciate your continued support!

## **Electronics Recycling Fundraiser – Year Round**

Edison has partnered with Recycling Advantage to collect printer cartridges, cell phones, laptops and tablets for recycling. This will be a year-round fundraiser, so you can drop stuff off any time. All funds raised go toward supporting Green Team events and programs.

### **Edison Field – Now Open**

Have you noticed Edison's field? DPS's Grounds Department and Edison's facility manager have worked VERY hard this summer to improve the grass on our field. Though students REALLY wanted to play on the field in September, it was worth the wait because the grass is growing and our field looks so much better than it did in the Spring. It is important for all of us to know that DPS's Grounds Department has worked closely with Edison's facility manager to create a 3 year plan of improvement. Next summer, DPS will re-seed and fertilize again so that we continue to improve our field. We appreciate the efforts the Grounds Department and Edison's facility staff have made to improve our campus.

### **Coats for Needy Children**

If you are a family that struggles financially and your children are in need of a new winter coat, please reach out to our psychologist, Gina Coffee, at [Gina\\_Coffee@dpsk12.org](mailto:Gina_Coffee@dpsk12.org)

### **Traffic and Parking**

Safety is our first priority at Edison and this starts with the drop off and pick up of students. In order to make sure that all students are safe and accounted for at all times, please keep the following in mind:

- ECE students are to be dropped off and signed-in in the classroom each morning and then picked up and signed-out at the kindergarten playground each afternoon;
- Kindergarten students are to be dropped off/picked up on the southeast side of Quitman Street and enter/exit the building with their teachers by the kindergarten playground on the South side of the school;
- 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students are dropped off/picked up on the playground on the east side of the school or on the northwest side of Perry Street in the Kiss and Go/Greet and Get lane (polka-dotted);
- School buses park on the east side of the school on the southwest side of Perry Street. Please do not park or even pull over in this area;
- The parking lot is for DPS staff ONLY, please do NOT park, drop off or pick up students in the parking lot.
- All parents/community members must enter the building through the front doors, check in at the office and get a visitor/volunteer badge every time they enter the building.

**Kiss and Go Lane:** Parents who do not want to park and stay with their 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students on the playground in the morning may drop off their students in the student drop off lane between 8:30 and 8:40 AM. We ask parents to NOT park in the Kiss and Go /Greet and Get lane on the northwest side of Perry Street, outside the fence by the playground/community garden.

**Greet and Get Lane:** In order to help with afternoon traffic, parents who have 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students can sign up to have their child/ren ready and waiting at the pickup area between 3:30 and 3:40 PM on the northwest side of Perry Street, by the playground/community garden. Registration forms are available in the office. The following guidelines apply:

- This is only for cars. Walkers and students of parents who park will be picked up on the playground.

- Parents should pull over on Perry Street, stay in their car, and move forward as space allows.
- Cars may only stop long enough for their child/ren to get into the car.
- Cars must continue to move and leave the parking lane immediately after picking up their children.
- Parents must pick up children at 3:30 PM. If children are not picked up by 3:40, the teacher will bring them to the office and parents will need to find parking and come in to the office to pick the students up and sign them out.
- Only adults listed on the permission slip will be able to pick students up.
- Cell phones must not be used in the Greet and Get lane and all Colorado Motor Vehicle laws (seat belts, car seats) must be observed.
- Parents wishing to use the Greet and Get lane will need to fill out a permission form and return it to their student's teacher so that the teacher will know to send the child to the Greet and Get pick up area at 3:30 PM.

### [A Message from our PTA...](#)

October is a busy month at Edison, and for the PTA! There are several exciting events coming up over the next few weeks. Please mark your calendars for the following PTA-sponsored events:

**Wednesday, October 4th** - Walk to School Day: Ditch your cars and take a nice walk to school on what will, hopefully, be a beautiful Fall day!

**Thursday, October 5th** - PTA Meeting 6:00-7:00pm in the Auditorium. Childcare will be provided.

**Friday, October 20th** - Edison Annual Fall Festival- Dia de los Muertos

This year we will have a dunk tank, cake walk, face painting and a ton of other fun events and games, all with prizes and goodies for the kiddos. Throw in some awesome refreshments (the sales of which go to benefit our 4th graders), a bounce house and costumes and we'll have ourselves a party! Look for more information to come as the event gets nearer. To make this event a success, we need lots of volunteers! Don't delay! Sign up today! All proceeds from this event go directly back into the classrooms.

Volunteer Sign Up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4BAAAC22A3FC1-20172>

Please sign up here to help with the concession stand to help the 4<sup>th</sup> grade raise funds for their overnight trip. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4eada829aafc1-fall3>

Fall Fest Silent Auction prep is under way! If you have a donation or work for an organization wishing to donate a gift card, goods or services please contact our fundraising team at [edisonfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:edisonfundraising@gmail.com).

**Friday, October 20th** - BoxTops Fall Collection. Send in all those box tops you've collected! Each one you turn in directly benefits Edison.

Did you love the camaraderie of the classroom teams for the Eagle Run? We are keeping things going through the New Year with the Edison Read-A-Thon! Which class will be our Top Readers over Winter Break?

If you like to assist the **Read-A-Thon**, please contact Anne SD at [edisonreadathon@gmail.com](mailto:edisonreadathon@gmail.com) "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller

We're looking forward to a fun (and busy!) month at Edison! Please join in and help us make it a great one!

**PTA Leadership:**

President - Quintin Galt

Secretary – Katie Malarkey

VP - Kurt Wolff

Treasurer - Chris Campbell